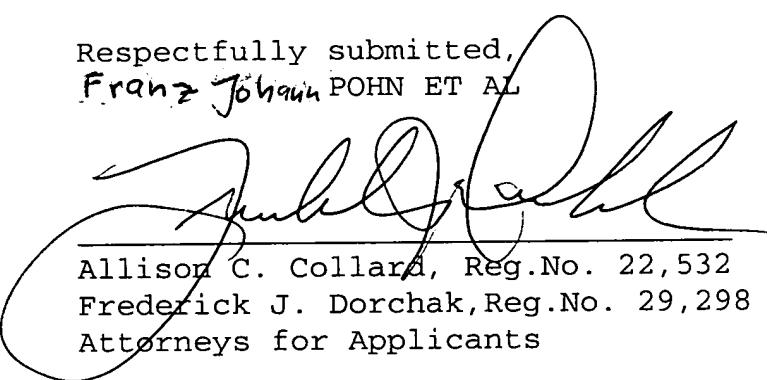


REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, the application has been amended to conform with U.S. practice, the cross-reference to the related application has been inserted on page 1, claims 1 through 52 have been cancelled and claims 52 through 114 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Maria Guastella  
*J. Mitterdorff*